

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

RECORD
PHILADELPHIA

3 COMPLETE
STORIES

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1940

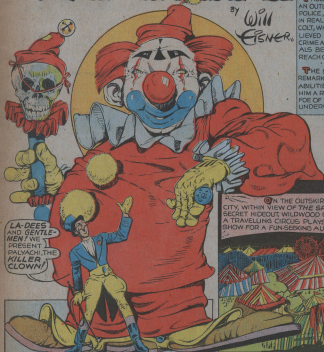
The SPIRIT



By *Will Eisner*

THOUGH BRANDED AN OUTLAW BY THE POLICE, THE SPIRIT, IN REALITY DENNY COLE, WHO IS BELIEVED DEAD, FIGHTS CRIME AND CRIMINALS BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW.

THE SPIRIT'S REMARKABLE ABILITIES MAKE HIM A RELENTLESS FOE OF THE UNDERWORLD....



LA-DEES AND GENTLEMEN! WE PRESENT DALYACHI, THE KILLER CLOWN!

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, WITHIN VIEW OF THE SPIRIT'S SECRET HIDEOUT, WILDWOOD CEMETERY, A TRAVELLING CIRCUS PLAYS ITS GAUDY SHOW FOR A FUN-SEEKING AUDIENCE...





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THE FIRST ACT IS ON. THE AUDIENCE IS CONVULSED WITH LAUGHTER.



AMUSED BY A CLOWN KNOWN AS PALYACHI.



THE ACT OVER, LET US FOLLOW PALYACHI, AS HE HEADS FOR A DRESSING ROOM, MARKED WITH A STAR.



YES... SO WHAT? TO THEM YOU ARE A STUPID LITTLE CLOWN! MAKE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF! YOU WANT TO MARRY ME?? WELL, DO SOMETHING TO PROVE YOUR LOVE!

BUT WHAT?



MARKA, DID YOU HEAR THEM?

THERE! KILL FLIPO, THE TRAPEZE ARTIST! I HATE HIM!



KILL! NO! NO!

AFRAID?? BAH! COWARD? I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! GO AHEAD! DO IT! REMEMBER, IF YOU LOVE ME.



KILL? I CAN'T! I'VE NEVER HARMED A SOUL... (COULD) BUT I MUST! IF I'M TO WIN HER... I-I'M MAD ABOUT HER!



LATER THAT NIGHT...THE FINAL ACT IS ANNOUNCED



INTRODUCING FLIPO, THE AERIAL ARTIST, WHO WILL DO FOUR FLIPS IN MID-AIR!

DRUMS ROLL IN ENDLESS THUNDER, AS FLIPO SWINGS FROM ONE SIDE OF THE HUGE TENT TO THE OTHER. AS HE NEARS ONE SIDE, HE SEES PALYACHI HIDDEN IN THE RAFTERS.



PALYACHI!! DON'T

UNSEEN, PALYACHI'S KNIFE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR, AND A MAN IS MURDERED BEFORE THE EYES OF TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE.

DEAD!! A KNIFE IN HIS CHEST! BUT NO ONE WAS NEAR HIM! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?



THE DESIRE TO KILL IS NOW STRONG WITHIN PALYACHI THE CLOWN...AND THE NEXT NIGHT A KILLER CLOWN STALKS THE STREETS!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY IN THE SPIRIT'S UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT.



VERY SIMPLE, EBONY. A MATTER OF THINKING ALONG THE PROPER LINES.

YEAH! I SPOSE YOU COULD SOLVE DE KILLIN' IN DIS MAWNIN'S PAPER.

JES - LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES USTA DO.

LET ME SEE - HMM RESIN.

POLICE BAFLED LATEST IN SERIES OF CLUELESS CRIMES!

Bank clerk murdered! No clues, gave a bit OF powdered resin. Police believe clue to be unimportant.

THAT'S AN EASY ONE THE RESIN DUST INDICATES SOME SORT OF CIRCUS PERFORMER IT HELPS THEM GRIP ROPE MORE FIRMLY. THE KILLER IS A CIRCUS PERFORMER?



NOW, LET'S SEE, I'LL PLAY ANOTHER HUNCH, AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE LADIES' DRESSING ROOMS FIRST!





BUT THE SPIRIT REGAINS HIS FEET INSTANTLY. A DYNAMITE LEFT BEHIND THE CLOWN CRASHING INTO THE SUPPORTS, THE BOARDS COLLAPSE ON THE SPIRIT.



THE CLOWN STAGGERS TO A CASE HIGH IN THE RAFTERS.



BUT THE NET CANNOT HOLD THE WEIGHT OF THE APE. IT COLLAPSES.





SUDDENLY A POWERFUL
PAW CLOSES ABOUT
THE SPIRIT'S COLLAR
IN A VISE-LIKE GRIP...



IT IS THE APE... SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY,
PALYACHI SCAMPERS OFF TO FREEDOM...

IN A FLASH, THE SPIRIT IS
OUT OF HIS COAT...



HOLD MY
COAT, MR
APE!



THANKS!



BOY!
YOU'RE
TOUGH!

THE APE RAISES HIS ARM
AND BRINGS IT DOWN IN A
MURDEROUS SWIPE... BY
A HAIR'S BREADTH, THE
SPIRIT ESCAPES INSTANT
DEATH...



THE MONSTER STAGGERS
THE BLOWS OF THE SPIRIT
AT LAST TAKE EFFECT. WITH
A GROAN THE APE SINKS TO
THE SAWDUST...



GOLLY!
THAT WAS
CLOSE!

MEANWHILE,
IN HER DRESS-
ING ROOM,
MARKA AWAITS
THE RETURN OF
THE SPIRIT...



Y-YOU?
PALYACHI!

AH! THERE
HE IS NOW...
COME IN!



SUDDENLY THE PLEADING IS
CUT SHORT. A HORRIBLE
SILENCE IS PUNCTUATED BY
AN AWFUL GASP.



THEN AFTER A MOMENT, THE LITTLE
MAD CLOWN LIFTS HIS FACE IN A
LAUGHTER SO BLOOD-CURDLING



THE SPIRIT LEAPS TO A
NEARBY TELEPHONE



AND NOW YOU'D
BETTER TELL ME
THE WHOLE
STORY!



MEANWHILE, COMMISSIONER DOLAN ARRIVES WITH
A SQUAD OF POLICE

SURROUND THE
PLACE! NO LOOK-
THERE GOES THE
SPIRIT! NAB
HIM!



WITH THE ENTIRE SQUAD AT
HIS HEELS, THE SPIRIT
ROUNDS A CORNER



A MOMENT LATER...



I KILLED
HER! HA HA!

WAIT,
DOLAN!

YOU'LL
GET
THE
CHAIR
FOR THIS!



WHERE ARE
MY MEN?

OFF ON A LITTLE
SPRINT, SHE
IS THE REAL
KILLER! SHE
WAS THE RING-
MASTER, AND THE
CLOWN BUT A FREAK
OF HER DESIGN IN A
CIRCUS OF MURDER!



...AND AS ANOTHER
REAL OF MAD
LAUGHTER SHAKES
THE CLOWN, THE
SPIRIT VANISHES
INTO THE MIST...





LADY LUCK

THE CINDERELLA MURDER CASE

By Ford Davis

THIS DEBUTANTE ROBIN HOOD FINDS MURDER NOT CONFINED TO GANGSTERS. HERE IS AN EXPOSE OF CRIME IN HIGH SOCIETY...

4:00 A.M. WALTER MASON, MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY, STOPS IN AT JOEY'S LUNCH WAGON FOR A SNACK.



HELLO, BEAUTIFUL! ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOUR TALENTS AND LOOKS ARE WASTED IN THIS PLACE!

NOPE!

WELL, I SAY SO... I'D LIKE TO TRY A LITTLE EXPERIMENT... I'LL LAY TEN TO ONE THAT YOU'D MAKE ALL THE DEBS AT THE GRAND COSTUME BALL LOOK SICK... HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO?



YOU'RE KIDDIN'!

NOT AT ALL! IS IT A DATE?



OH, GEE, MISTER... I MUST BE DREAMIN'!



Social Set
WILL CINDERELLA MAKE GOOD?

FROM DISH RAGS TO THE DIZZY HEIGHTS OF GLAMOUR THE LITTLE WAITRESS BECOMES THE BELLE OF THE BALL.

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS!

SHE IS LOVELY!

J. WALTER'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN!

"MASON'S FIND* THE WAITRESS AT THE BALL. WE WONDER."

THREE WOMEN WATCH WITH COOLY CRITICAL EYES... ONE, THE EX MRS. J.W. MASON.



TWO... SALLY MASON, HIS SISTER, WHO IS NOT SO HAPPY ABOUT HER BROTHER'S NEW DISCOVERY.



THREE... THE FUTURE MRS. MASON, CYNTHIA WALES, CRITICALLY SURVEYS THE SCENE.



ANOTHER WHO WATCHES AND LISTENS IS LADY LUCK.



THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT ME WHY, I EVEN LOANED HER MY SANDALS... BUT SHE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT! HE'S ALL MINE! AND NO CHEAP LITTLE UPSTART CAN CHANGE THAT! AT 12 O'CLOCK I'LL...

LADY LUCK HURRIES ACROSS THE DANCE FLOOR...



I HATE TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE MIDNIGHT OR...



MIDNIGHT NEARS, BUT NO ONE TAKES THE LADY SERIOUSLY.



THE SHOT HITS ITS MARK... CINDERELLA CRUMBLES TO THE FLOOR!



UNNOTICED BY THE EXCITED BYSTANDERS, THE 'LADY' SLIPS A SANDAL FROM THE SLAIN GIRL'S FOOT...



NEXT DAY, THREE WOMEN RECEIVE AN INVITATION



THE EX AND FUTURE MRS. MASON, AND SALLY, ARRIVE AT BRENDA'S.....



REMEMBER THE END OF THE FAIRY TALE? THIS TIME I'M GOING TO FIT THE SLIPPER TO THE MURDERESS WHO LOANED IT TO THE WAITRESS!



WHY! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HUMILIATED IN MY LIFE!

THAT SLIPPER IS TOO LARGE FOR ME!

WHY, I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA!



I'LL CALL THE POLICE TO WITNESS THE FITTING. HELLO... GIVE ME POLICE HEADQUARTERS



BUT THE NEXT MINUTE CYNTHIA CHANGES HER MIND.



ON SECOND THOUGHT I THINK I'D LIKE MY ATTORNEY HERE, TOO. I'LL PICK HIM UP IN MY CAR!



I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GETS AROUND ME LIKE THAT! BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT BEFORE!



IN A "BORROWED" POLICE CAR, SHE SPEEDS TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN.



JUST AS THE POLICE ARRIVE, CYNTHIA THROWS HERSELF AT LADY LUCK.



OFFICER O'MYE HAS THE PLEASURE OF PUTTING THE LADY BEHIND BARS.



INTO A FASHIONABLE BOUDOIR SLIPS THE FIGURE OF LADY LUCK.



NOW, WE'LL SEE IF SISTER SALLY NEEDS A NEW PAIR OF SHOES!



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FRIEND, FEENY... DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU LOSE YOUR JOB ON ACCOUNT OF ME? I PROMISE TO COME BACK IN AN HOUR!



THAT BIG TOE CLEARED THE FORMER MRS. MAGON OF MURDER!



NO! ONLY ONE MORE LEFT!



CYNTHIA'S SLEEP IS UNDISTURBED BY HER SILENT VISITOR.



CAREFULLY, THE GLOVED HANDS FIT THE SLIPPER.



SO YOU WERE THE GENEROUS SOUL THAT LOANED YOUR SHOES TO CINDERELLA.



WAKE UP, MISS WALES! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED, SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY WITH A MURDER ON YOUR CONSCIENCE!



YOU!... YOU CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON ME... I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!



EASY THERE, EASY! I'LL JUST BORROW YOUR CURTAIN CORD TO TIE YOU UP!



HIDDEN AMONG FLIMSY LINGERIE, SHE FINDS THE GUN OF THE KILLER.



IN LESS THAN AN HOUR SHE RETURNS TO JAIL.



WE'LL LOOK AT SLEEPING BEAUTY! I'LL GIVE HIM A LITTLE SURPRISE!

I HOPE HE DOESN'T GET SWELL-HEADED... LINKED WITH HIGH SOCIETY LIKE THIS!



GOODNIGHT, CYNTHIA! REMEMBER, IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU CONFESS YOUR CRIME!



OWYE! COME ON, I... WHAT TH'ERE'S THE LADY?

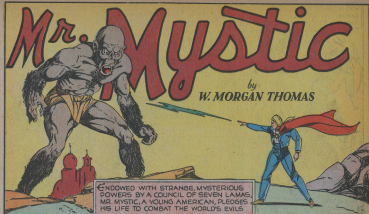


OH... ER... LET HER GO WHEN I... ER, CAUGHT THIS ONE!

VER AND SHE JUST... AND YOU CONFESSED... OF COURSE TOO... LEFT THIS CARD



WITH THE EVIDENCE YOU DISCOVERED!



RETURNING TO CADIWA, MR. MYSTIC GOES TO THE PALACE OF KING BAHROUD



MR. MYSTIC! COME IN! COME IN!

HELLO, YOUR MAJESTY. I'VE COME TO TAKE ELENA TO PRISON, WHERE SHE CAN DO NO MORE HARM.



YOU KNOW, MR. MYSTIC, I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER LEAVE HER HERE. SHE'S BEEN SO HELPFUL TO ME!

ELENA HELPFUL?



OH, YES! CONFIDENTIALLY, I'M GOING TO DECLARE WAR ON SULTON BIWA, AND SHE'S GIVEN ME MANY VALUABLE HINTS!



HMM, NO DOUBT! AND I SUPPOSE IT WAS HER IDEA TO START THE WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE. WELL, WASN'T IT?



MEH HEH. WELL... YES, REALLY, SHE'S A WONDERFUL GIRL, SO DYNAMIC! SO



YES... AND SO TREACHEROUS THAT SHE'LL SELL ALL YOUR PLANS TO THE ENEMY!

I MUST SAY, MR. MYSTIC, YOU'RE NOT VERY COMPLIMENTARY!



YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD, ELENA! CADIWA HAS BEEN AT PEACE FOR CENTURES, AND NOW YOU HAVE TO START TROUBLE!





YOU'RE CONSTANTLY TELLING ME THAT I HAVEN'T ANY POWER OVER YOU BECAUSE YOU HAVE SECRETS OF MAGIC TOO FUNNY THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM!

ARE YOU DOUBTING MY WORD? I HAVE MAGICAL POWERS AS GOOD AS YOURS, AND CAN PROVE IT, TOO!!





TURNING ON MR. MYSTIC, IT GRINS EVILY AND REACHES FOR HIM. . . .

SNATCHING UP THE MAGICIAN, IT SLOWLY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP.

SUDDENLY IT STOPS IN AMAZEMENT AND STARES MR. MYSTIC HAS VANISHED!!

HERE I AM, MY FOUL FRIEND... QUITE ALIVE!





A QUICK GESTURE AND THE TREE BOOMERANGS AROUND, FLYING STRAIGHT FOR ITS PITCHER.



JUST IN TIME, THE CREATURE DUCKS OUT OF THE WAY



ANGRILY SHAKING ITS FIST AT MR MYSTIC, IT IS UNAWARE OF THE TREE AGAIN SPINNING ABOUT AND HEADED STRAIGHT AT IT.



WITH A TREMENDOUS CRASH THE CHARLED TREE CONNECTS WITH THE BASE OF THE GIANT'S SKULL.



IT'S DEAD! I COMMAND IT TO MELT AND SEEP INTO THE GROUND! THERE!



IN A SECOND, MR. MYSTIC RETURNS TO HIS NORMAL SIZE.



I AM FINISHED! YOU HAVE WON!

I SHALL KEEP MY PROMISE AND CALL OFF THE WAR!





THAT NIGHT, ELENA PROVES A CHARMING COMPANION, GLAD TO BE RID OF THE YOKE OF CARDIN...

I'LL MISS YOU WHEN YOU GO. WON'T YOU LET ME GO WITH YOU? I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF YOU LEAVING!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK SOON...EVER SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING. NOW THE TIME HAS COME!

